

What is the park doing about invasive species?

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore actively removes and treats infestations of several invasive plant species, including garlic mustard, forget-me-not, spotted knapweed, Japanese knotweed and wild parsnip. Infestations may be hand-pulled or sprayed with chemicals. If you see posted information about invasive species management in the park, please read and heed the directions!



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The park also works to educate visitors and nearby communities about invasive species and their impact on the environment, collaborates with other agencies and civic groups on habitat restoration projects, and supports local efforts to promote native species for home gardens and landscaping.

What can I do to help?

The best way to help stop the spread of invasive plants is to avoid spreading the seeds. There are several “boot brush” stations located along park trails. Before and after hiking, please use the boot stations to remove seeds and burrs from your shoes so that you do not move them between trails. Make sure no seeds are sticking to your laces as well.



Also, check for and remove all seeds and soil from recreational equipment such as tents and walking sticks. Shake out your tent, camp chairs, sleeping bags and other items before leaving the campsite. Prevent your pets from spreading seeds by keeping them in designated areas only.

At home, choose native plants for gardens and landscapes and know what plants are invasive in your area.

For more information visit:

<http://www.nature.nps.gov/biology/invasivespecies/>

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Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore

Beware of Leafy Strangers!



Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore is continually threatened by non-native, invasive plants that cause ecological damage to the park's many diverse habitats and can even harm human health. Learn to recognize some of the more common invasive plants in the park and discover what you can do to help prevent their spread.

What are alien and invasive species?

Over 120 plant species in Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore are “unwelcome” strangers: non-native, alien plants that don’t belong in this ecosystem. Alien plants often include garden varieties that escaped into the wild or species that were accidentally transported from Asia or Europe. Most non-native plants do not negatively impact the environment, but others, known as *invasive species*, can cause significant ecological damage. Invasive species such as garlic mustard, forget-me-not and spotted knapweed can alter forest and dune communities, and crowd out native species.

Why are invasive plants harmful?

Invasive plants, which can grow quickly, spread aggressively and produce abundant seeds, often out-compete native species. Since they do not “belong” in U.S. ecosystems, there are few if any natural predators or diseases to limit their spread. They absorb more than their fair share of nutrients and light, and suppress other species—thus limiting healthy forest diversity.



Above: This woodland scene shows the proliferation of invasive forget-me-nots (blue flowers). This quick-spreading species is beginning to displace native ferns and herbaceous plants in the understory near Miners Castle and on many trails in the park. Its velcro-like seeds are spread by wind and animals... and even unsuspecting hikers!

About 12 non-native plants found at Pictured Rocks are considered **highly invasive**. Here are a few of these “leafy strangers” you may encounter in the park.



Garlic Mustard

Biennial up to 3 feet tall, found in open areas and in woods. The plant smells strongly of garlic and has small white flowers with four petals. Removed by herbicide and hand-pulling.

Forget-Me-Not

Escaped garden plant with small, five-petaled blue flowers. Grows well in shade. Best treated with herbicide.



Goutweed

Also called Snow-on-the-mountain. The variety in the park has non-variegated leaves. Forms dense patches, crowds out native plants. Best removed by digging.

Wild Parsnip

Biennial up to 5 feet tall with pale yellow flowers. Best removed by careful hand pulling. This plant can cause severe and dangerous blisters! Tell park staff if you see this plant, but **do not touch it!**



Spotted Knapweed

Biennial/perennial 2-4 feet tall. Found in dry sunny fields, roads, pastures and driveways. Best controlled by hand-pulling and herbicide treatment.

Cover: Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*), and spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*).